

A BRIEF MASONIC HISTORY OF MASONRY IN MT. VERNON, INDIANA

Philanthropic Lodge No. 36 was chartered in 1829 and was revoked in 1835, and this is all that is known about this Lodge until the records can be researched.

Mt. Vernon Lodge Under Dispensation, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Indiana, was organized March 29, 1854, by virtue of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Henry C. Lawrence's issuance on March 11, 1854, of said dispensation. When Indiana's Grand Lodge met (May 15, 1854) for their regular annual meeting, Mt. Vernon was given a Charter and becoming Mt. Vernon Lodge No. 163, F.&A.M.

The Charter of Mt. Vernon Lodge No. 163 was annulled in 1889, and 24 of the Mt. Vernon brothers petition the Grand Master to organize a "New" lodge, named Beulah Lodge. The petition was granted to form said lodge Under Dispensation, dated June 24, 1889. When Grand Lodge had its annual meeting in May 27, 1890, they granted a Charter to Beulah Lodge No. 578, F. & A. M. of the State of Indiana.

Beulah Lodge No. 578 has had three homes:

- 1st June 24, 1889 to June 27, 1921, The Masonic Hall (Currently the Alles Brothers Furniture Store) located at the corner of Second and College Streets.**
- 2nd July 18, 1921 to September 13, 1991, The Masonic Temple (known as The Hovey House) located at the corner of fourth and Walnut Streets.**
- 3rd January 1, 1993, The Masonic Lodge moved to 1131 West Fourth Street (the lodge met in a temporary facility during construction of the new building).**

Beulah Lodge No. 578, Free and Accepted Masons will celebrate their 125th anniversary of the Charter in Mt. Vernon in 2015. Masonic history will celebrate 161 continuous years and 186 years since the Masons first started in Mt. Vernon in that same year [2015]. It is one of the oldest fraternal organizations in Mt. Vernon. For more information you can contact David Belcher (812) 985-5398.